

a second piece mountable to a trailer jack,

wherein said first piece and said second piece are movably connected to each other such that said second piece can transition between a plurality of positions relative to said first piece, wherein once said first piece is mounted to the hitch coupler of the trailer and the trailer jack is mounted to said second piece, the trailer jack mounted to said second piece can transition between a corresponding plurality of positions relative to the trailer mounted to said first piece.

Claim 4 (amended):

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first piece comprises a trailer mounting structure for mounting to the hitch coupler of the trailer and at least one extending structure for pivotally connecting to said second piece, wherein said second piece comprises a trailer jack mounting structure for mounting to the trailer jack and at least one pivoting arm for pivotally connecting to said first piece, wherein said at least one extending structure and said at least one pivoting arm are pivotally connected to each other by a pivoting means.

Claim 11 (amended):

11. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first piece is permanently mounted to the hitch coupler of the trailer.

herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 21, and 22 are currently before the Examiner for consideration. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Linton *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,176,824). The Office Action states that Linton *et al.* shows a vehicle jack selectively mountable on a vehicle, and that the mounting arrangement comprises a first piece 38 mounted to the vehicle and a second piece 32 mounted to the vehicle jack. Claim 1 has been amended to now comprise a first piece mountable to a hitch coupler of a trailer. Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to be consistent with this amendment to claim 1. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, at least, in Figure 1A which shows a hitch coupler of a trailer. The applicant asserts that the Linton *et al.* reference does not teach a trailer jack mounting apparatus comprising a first piece mountable to a hitch coupler of a trailer. As the Linton *et al.* reference does not teach each and every limitation of the subject invention as claimed in claim 1, the applicant asserts a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is not proper. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 3-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linton *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,176,824) and further in view of Ebey (U.S. Patent No. 4,623,125). The applicant respectfully traverses this grounds for rejection because the cited references, alone, or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the unique and advantageous apparatus claimed by the current applicants. As discussed above, the Linton *et al.* reference does not teach a trailer jack mounting apparatus comprising a first piece mountable to a hitch coupler of a trailer. The Ebey reference does not cure this defect. Accordingly, the applicant asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness does not exist with respect to the invention as claimed in claims 3-12.

corresponding plurality of positions relative to the trailer mounted to said first piece.

Claim 4 (amended):

Q2 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first piece comprises a trailer mounting structure for mounting to the hitch coupler of the trailer and at least one extending structure for pivotally connecting to said second piece, wherein said second piece comprises a trailer jack mounting structure for mounting to the trailer jack and at least one pivoting arm for pivotally connecting to said first piece, wherein said at least one extending structure and said at least one pivoting arm are pivotally connected to each other by a pivoting means.

Claim 11 (amended):

Q3 11. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first piece is permanently mounted to the hitch coupler of the trailer.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 21 (new):

Q4 The mounting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first piece is mountable to a hitch coupler of a trailer designed to have a trailer jack mounted to the hitch coupler.

Claim 22 (new):

The mounting apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the second piece is mountable to a trailer jack designed to mount to the hitch coupler.